

The Flivver Flash

The Official Newsletter of the Space City T's - Houston, TX

Same Day Response Fire Department Adds New Pumper

by Bobby Wright

There is an old joke about buying a Model T. The joke says you buy one, and then they tend to multiply, so plan and be prepared for your second, third or fourth Model T. It's hard to explain, but it happens.

Most of you know that I own a 1924 TT Simms Chemical Fire Truck. Now, I own a second Fire Truck: a 1927 TT Howe Pumper. Yep, now I am an Ex-Fire Chief with my own Fire Department: the "Same Day Response" Fire Department.

So, how does this happen?

Awhile back, I was reading one of the MTFCA Forum posts where a person was sort of expressing his frustration of looking for a Model T Fire Truck. I decided it would be a good idea to give him some words of encouragement, explaining that I had looked for years before I found my TT Fire Truck. I encouraged him to keep looking and surely something would "find him".

IN PERSON June 9th meeting is on! See Page 8!

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: ModelT@spacecityts.org

Watching the forum site, I noticed a response he got, and felt sure he had found the Fire Truck he was looking for. In the end, he passed on the truck because they were literally on opposite Coasts: California and Georgia. After that person dropped out of the purchase, I decided I would contact the seller and "see what he had". That started a discussion, and the discussion then became an interest, and the interest then became a purchase, when the seller agreed to meet me halfway in Mobile, Alabama to complete the transfer.



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I still had one problem, no tow vehicle! I had sold my pickup and ordered a new truck, but it hadn't been delivered. Believe it or not, my Ford Dealer agreed to provide me with a loaner Ford F-250 tow vehicle for the trip.



The Fire Truck was built by Howe in Anderson Indiana in 1927 on a TT chassis. It has a three-piston positive displacement pump that is chain driven from a transfer case bolted to the rear of the Model T transmission. In addition to supplying power to the pump, the transfer case has a non-pumping position that provides a lower speed output to the drive shaft similar to a two-speed rear axle.

Unlike the crankshaft of an internal combustion engine, the crankshaft for the pump is open air on top of the pump. The main and rod bearings are lubricated by server cups that have to be manually filled with gear oil.

It is unknown at this time if the pump will actually pump water. What is known, is that all the external visible parts do operate and move. There is a water tank located on right side of chassis that holds approximately 250 gallons of water. It's interesting to note that the water tank is solid copper. The connecting plumbing from the tank to pump is missing. There is several feet of black suction hose mounted on the truck. This hose would be placed in a pond, creek, or other water source to serve as a water supply.



So, the "Same Day Response" Fire Department is now made up of a 1924 Simms Chemical Truck on a TT Chassis and a 1927 Howe Pumper on a TT Chassis. Currently my 1915 Runabout Pickup conversion is being converted to a Fire Chief's vehicle. More on that in a later issue.

Revitalizing a 23 Roadster with the La Porte – Bay Area Heritage Society

by Debbie Marino

In April of this year, Janet Graves, currently serving as an officer of the Greater Houston Model A Restorers Club (GHMARC) in the secretary position, was contacted by an acquaintance looking for assistance with an antique vehicle. Turns out that vehicle was a 1923 Ford Model T Roadster. Janet then contacted Bill Dorsey, who is the proud owner of a 1931 Tudor Sedan. Both he and Tony Marino are members of GHMARC, and fellow League City residents. Tony owns two Model As in addition to his two Model Ts, and that is how the connection was made for yet another Space City T's member to reach out to the community in educating others about the Model T.

Bill first spoke to Pat Chandler, who is the current chairperson of the La Porte – Bay Area Heritage Society. The 1923 Roadster had somehow been acquired by the Heritage Society, but it had been in storage roughly 20 years, and was now temporarily residing in her garage.



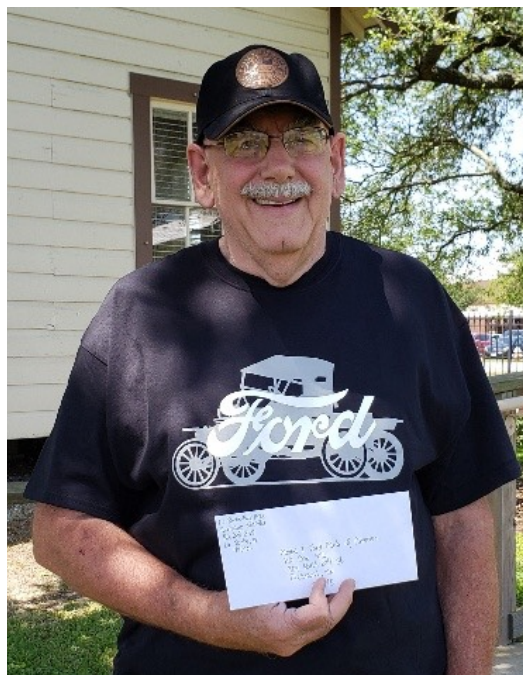
Bill and Tony's initial trip to La Porte was to see if the car would run and what parts were needed to make that happen. The first item on the agenda was obtaining keys for the vehicle, as it had neither an ignition nor a trunk key. Tony brought some ignition keys in his tool bag and one of them worked!

However, to make this Roadster go, there was additional work to be done. The carburetor was removed so it could be cleaned out. The 'sweet potato' sediment bowl was swapped out with an extra one of Tony's. The car also needed a new fuel line, a battery, and some inner tubes to fix flat tires.

The now cleaned-up carburetor was brought back on the second trip to La Porte, and a fuel line and battery were installed. The Society had also purchased a new windshield wiper, and that was installed, as well. With these repairs in place, the car ran! Its first journey was only carefully up and down the driveway, though, as they waited on the arrival of the inner tubes.

Once the tires were fixed, the third visit that Bill and Tony made was to drive it about a mile from the house to the La Porte – Bay Area Heritage Society Depot Museum. Bill took a short video of Tony arriving from the gates of the museum's property heading towards the Depot, where it was displayed for a couple of hours while a Society officer's meeting took place. [Click here to watch the T display video.](#)

Tony later returned to La Porte on the weekend of the 65th annual Sylvan Beach Festival, sponsored by the La Porte – Bayshore Chamber of Commerce, that took place on April 24th, 2021. He once again drove the Roadster from the Chandler home to the Depot so that it could be put on display for the entire weekend. The Heritage Society had purchased magnetic signs with its name on them, so those were placed on the car when they arrived. Because Tony did not want to accept any money for his time working on the Roadster, he had suggested that the Society make a MTFCA donation instead. The La Porte – Bay Area Heritage Society made a generous donation of \$200 to the Model T Ford Club of America Museum in Richmond, Indiana.



The La Porte – Bay Area Heritage Society is located at Heritage Park at 604 Park Street in La Porte, Texas. Its purpose is to collect and gather items that illustrate the history of the City of La Porte and the surrounding Galveston Bay area, as well as preserving historic buildings. The Society's first restoration project was the old La Porte Depot, which now serves as the city's history museum.

In addition to the museum, visitors to Heritage Park can also tour the Caboose SP1088 Railcar built in 1942. It was donated by Southern

Pacific Railroad in 1985 and restored by Heritage Society members. The 1929 La Porte Library was originally located on A Street, serving as the city's library until 1967. In 2002, the building was relocated to Heritage Park when it was given to the Heritage Society. There is also an exhibit hall on the property, Heritage Hall, which features special exhibits throughout the year. Admission to Heritage Park's depot museum and library is free and open from 11-4 on the weekends; weekdays and special tours by appointment only.

<http://laportetx.gov/570/La-Porte-Heritage-Society>

Some history about the Depot: La Porte, Houston and Northern Railroad was chartered in 1892 and then rechartered as Galveston, La Porte and Houston Railway in 1895. At this point, 13 miles of track from Houston to La Porte had been laid; the remaining 9 miles of the journey to La Porte would need to be made by horse drawn carriage. In 1899, the railroad was sold under foreclosure to the Galveston, Houston and Northern Railway Company, becoming part of the Southern Pacific System. Not long after, the rail line was completed to Sylvan Beach. In the summer of 1900, the Moonlight Excursion began running. The train would leave the old Central Depot in Houston at 7 p.m. and arrive back in downtown Houston at midnight from Sylvan Beach. Southern Pacific moved the Depot building to Sylvan Beach in 1915 because of the new popularity of Sylvan Beach Park, and the depot was renamed to Sylvan Beach Depot. It would later be changed again to La Porte Beach Depot so that "La Porte" would appear on the Southern Pacific train schedule. Around this time frame, a rail spur was laid to Morgan's Point, eventually becoming the Bayshore Line.

By 1930, the Depot closed, as the popularity of the automobile grew with its former passengers. The building was sold and moved to downtown La Porte on Main Street where it

became a filling station and general store. It wouldn't be until the 1980's that the depot would be donated to the newly formed La Porte Bay Area Heritage Society and moved back to its original location across from Sylvan



Beach Park entrance.

The 22 acres of Sylvan Beach Park itself has quite a bit of history and was known as the "Coney Island of the South" in the 1920s and 1930s because of its amusement park. Big bands performed at dances; beauty contests were held; bathhouses, boating piers, a Victorian hotel, and a dance pavilion were built. By the late 1930s, tourism declined, and beach erosion and industrial development grew. World War II shifted La Porte's focus to the petrochemical industry, and the war's gas rationing diminished tourism. In 1943, a tornado spawned by a hurricane destroyed most of the tourist attractions and the pavilion, which was one of the largest dance halls in the south. Because of wartime restrictions on non-defense related construction, it would not be until the 1950s that a new pavilion was created. The current Sylvan Beach Pavilion opened in 1956, but not without suffering damage in several hurricanes: Hurricane Carla of 1961, Hurricane Alicia of 1983, and Hurricane Ike in 2008. By this time, the pavilion seemed destined for destruction, but would later become listed in the National Historic Register by the US Park Service in 2010, then a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark and a State Archaeological Landmark in 2011. As a result, a restoration contract was awarded, and the renovation work completed in 2013.

359 BBQ & SWEETS **CAR & TRUCK FESTIVAL**



(ENTRY FEE: \$Early \$30/Late: \$40)
SHOW CASE YOUR CAR or TRUCK

Date:

3rd Sunday, June 20, 2021

Time:

1:00 PM

Prizes:

1st: Trophy & Cash-\$250

2nd: Plaque & Cash- \$150

3rd: Certificate & Cash -\$75.00

Where:

359 Country Place BBQ & SWEETS

12699 FM 359 " Monaville" Hempstead, TX 77445

Call:

281-202-9427

Social Media:

rd359countryplacemarket@yahoo.com

Facebook: [rd359countryplacemarket](#)

Texas T Party 2021

Wednesday September 29 - Sunday October 2

Temple, Texas



TOUR INFORMATION

2021 Texas T Party Tour Application

Click the "2021 Texas T Party Registration Form" link below for the tour application. **Please, please, please fill it out on your computer**, then print it out to mail it to the address supplied at the bottom of the form along with your payment.

CLICK: [2021 Texas T Party Registration Form](#)

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON YOUR COMPUTER BEFORE PRINTING IT OUT

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BY
AUGUST 31, 2021

FORD MODEL T SAFETY INSPECTION FORM - *Required*

Please click the "MTFCA Model T Safety Inspection Form" linked below for the mandatory inspection form you must submit in order to participate on this tour in your Model T.

DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM with your tour application and payment. Please print it out and complete it and then bring it with you when you register in person at the tour

CLICK: [MTFCA Model T Safety Inspection Form](#)

HOTEL INFORMATION

The 2021 Texas T party will be based at the **Hilton Garden Inn**, located in the medical center area of the Temple Medical Center area. A special "T Party Tour Rate" of \$110 per night has been negotiated for tour participants. The hotel is committed to providing 80 of their 130 rooms at this rate. It may go over this quota depending on demand from other customers, so act quickly. The hotel is pet friendly but does require a \$50 non-refundable pet deposit.

**Hilton Garden Inn
1749 Scott Blvd
Temple, TX 76504
PH. (254) 773 0200**

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE HOTEL
WEB SITE: [Hilton Garden Inn](#)

The Flivver Flash is published by the Space City T's chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America in Houston, Texas twelve times per year. This newsletter is produced for the education and enjoyment of members and those expressing interest in joining the Space City T's. Said education and enjoyment is as it pertains to the Model T Ford automobile. The Flash is also shared with other antique auto clubs. Other clubs may use articles from this publication with credit to this newsletter or the original source. News, articles, ads or anything of interest to the club must be submitted to the editor by the 20th of the month preceding the month of publication. Emailing takes place the last week of the month. Annual dues are \$25 per year.

2021 Space City Club Officers and Board Members

President	Dave Lucas	281-388-0761
Vice President	David Carter	713-875-1049
Secretary	Bruce Carter	713-703-2958
Treasurer	Jerry Smith	281-461-9906
Board Member	Nancy Carter	713-412-0880
Board Member	Bobby Wright	409-771-5548
Board Member	Anthony J. Marino	281-482-4156

THE FLIVVER FLASH

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302 Torrey Court
League City, TX 77573
281-482-4156

email: modelt@spacecityts.org

2022 Officer Nominations

Please communicate your 2022 club officer nominations to Dave Lucas at (713) 299-3059 or daverlucas@yahoo.com.

New Members Wanted

Please visit our [Space City T's of Houston Texas web site](#). If interested in becoming a member, please provide your name, address, mobile phone, & email, and make a \$25 check payable to **Space City T's**.

Please mail your information and check to the Treasurer at:

Jerry Smith
13723 Llano Lake Court
Houston, TX 77059

A special "Thank You" to all club members who paid their 2021 dues!

The Space City T's Club is the Houston, Texas chapter of the Model T Ford Club of America. All questions concerning membership, The Vintage Ford magazine, the MTFCA library, chapter insurance, purchase of manuals, back magazine issues, or store items can be directed to the following:

Model T Ford Club of America

309 N. 8th Street, PO BOX 996
Richmond, IN 47375-0996
Phone: 765-855-5248

Email: rachel@mtfca.com

\$40 annual dues includes six issues of the Vintage Ford
Join MTFCA at: www.mtfca.com

FLIVVER FLASH INPUTS NEEDED

Do you have something to share? A barn find, funny or not so funny Model T stories? Tour photos, or articles about Model T's? Your Model T acquisition stories, restoration photos or swap meet finds? A special interest article?

Please email ads, articles, photos, stories, etc. etc. to: topkick7@outlook.com



ANTIQUE AUTO
MODEL A & MODEL T SPECIALIST

ROSS LILLEKER

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WWW.MRMODELT.COM

For Sale: 1929 Model A Boat-Tail Speedster



2016 Keels & Wheels pics

'Boat-tail' is from two 1947 International pickup hoods, 4 cylinder Model A motor with Stromberg downdraft carburetor, & modern intake manifold, Kelsey 16" bent spoke wheels, and rebuilt electrical system.

\$9500 OBO

Anthony J. Marino
832-607-8528 mobile or
281-482-4156 home,
leave a message or

Next Meeting

June 9, 2021



**Dine with Friends at
Demeris BBQ at 6:00 P.M.**

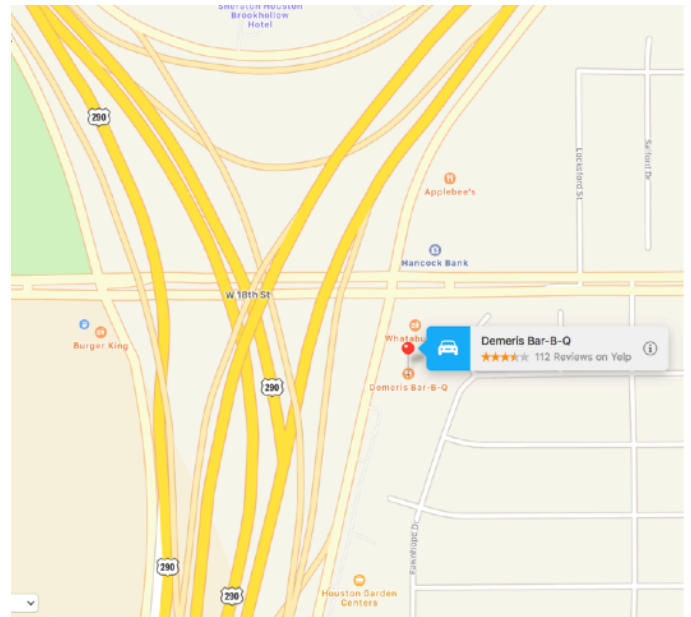
**located at
1702 West Loop North,
Suite A, Houston, TX 77008**

**Then attend the
Space City T's Meeting at 7:30 P.M.**

**Place:
Lazy Brook Baptist Church
1822 West 18th Street in the
Heights**

Website: www.spacecityts.org

Email: modelt@spacecityts.org



Directions to Demeris BBQ

From the east or west on I-10 or the south side of downtown, take the I-610 West Loop North and get off at the 18th Street Exit. Demeris BBQ will be immediately on the right after Houston Garden Nursery.

From the west on Highway 290, exit at Mangum and turn right to 18th Street. At 18th, turn left, cross under West Loop and turn into the Whataburger parking lot on the right. Proceed to Demeris BBQ after the Whataburger.

From the north on I-45, take the 610 North Loop West around to the I-610 West Loop South to the Hempstead Highway exit. Make a U-turn under I-610 and proceed north on the frontage road to just before 18th Street, Demeris BBQ will be on your right after Houston Garden Center.



First Class Mail



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League City, Texas 77573

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